

**BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPERS**

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

**A Brooklyn Papers Publication**

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## CUT!

### After complaints, movie crews banned in Heights

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Cut — that's a wrap. In Brooklyn Heights, at least. After three big-budget movie crews turned the scenic neighborhood into a Hollywood backlot last week, the city announced that it would bar future filming there for three months.

For some Brooklyn Heights residents, the decision to restrict new filming permits didn't come a moment too soon.

Last week, the already cramped neighborhood was overrun with film crews — and their big movie star trailers, catering trucks and equipment rigs.

On Thursday and Friday, Warner Bros. rented St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity Church to film the Kirsten Sheridan-helmed "August Rush."

And on Thursday, author-actor-director Ethan Hawke was on the Promenade shooting the film version of his angst-ridden novel, "The Hottest State." Hawke also stars in the film.

And the next morning on Cadman Plaza West, dog-walkers were displaced by a white trailer labeled "Lucy" and "Desi" that served the crew of a Castle Rock remake of "Mostly Martha," starring Catherine Zeta-Jones.

As a result of the celebrity invasion, the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting placed waterfront blocks of Rensselaer, Pierrepont and Montague streets on the moratorium "hot list."

Such filming bans are rare, said a spokeswoman for the city film office. In 2003, the entire DUMBO neighborhood was temporarily made off-limits to filmic auteurs, thanks to residents' complaints — a move that emboldened other over-filmed neighborhoods to start complaining louder.

The film office heard plenty of gripes from Brooklyn Heights last week.

"The film companies idle their trucks," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "They take up parking and move our cars."

See **BANNED** on page 12

### City: Free parking on the block

#### Eye resident permits

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Planners from the Department of Transportation have begun studying a parking permit system that would discourage commuters from parking in residential neighborhoods surrounding Downtown — which could reduce the number of cars clogging the streets of Brownstone Brooklyn.

If the plan moves forward, residents of Brooklyn Heights, Fort Greene and Boerum Hill will be able to buy curbside spaces with a monthly pass.

Boston, Washington, London and San Francisco already have such systems, but the Downtown study is the farthest the controversial idea has moved in New York, where free street parking is considered a birthright.

"By not encouraging commuters to park, you may discourage commuters from driving Downtown," said Ryan Russo, DOT's Downtown Brooklyn coordinator. "But by making it easier for residents to park, you may also be encouraging more driving."

See **PARKING** on page 12



**THIS WEEKEND**

## Paws to reflect

### Wegman show kicks off at B'klyn Museum

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

William Wegman is not just a dog photographer.

So at a press conference at the Brooklyn Museum on Wednesday, there was Wegman, graciously displaying the same patience towards dog-obsessed reporters that he employs when arranging his beloved weimaraners into poignant and hilarious Polaroids.

Some reporters, after all, were frustrated that Wegman hadn't brought even one of the grey pups with him for the photo-op. But Wegman is quite serious about his art, which ranges far further afield than those reporters knew. And that's the subject of "Funny/Strange," the museum's first retrospective of Wegman's work in 15 years.

Spanning 40 years of his creative output, it includes paintings, collages, works-on-paper, artist books, black-and-white as well as color photography, and video works that Wegman directed and starred in. It will truly be an eye-opener for those who think the multi-talented artist only does splashy color photo-

graphs of those sad-eyed dogs.

"I wanted to give a sense of a mind that races, and I think that comes through in this installation," said Trevor Fairbrother, the exhibit's curator.

Wegman said he felt the exhibition was nearly "suffocating" with the crowded amount of work it displayed, but felt that "the advantages are that it's easy to make connections between different pieces."

"I'm glad that it's all mixed up, that it's not chronological or by media," said Wegman.

And in most of what this witty rural Massachusetts native has tackled, you'll find a smidgen of humor, a lightheartedness that's a breath of fresh air in the jaded art world.

The exhibition took its name from a simple 1982 ink-on-paper which depicts a ladder going down into a circle, a straw going into a circle, the word "strange" and the deliberately misspelled, "funney."

"He's always playing on multiple meanings," Fairbrother explained. "He finds something twisted, then twists that, too."

See **WEGMAN** on page 7



(Top) a detail of William Wegman's chromogenic print, "Washed Up." (Above) The artist in the Brooklyn Museum in front of "Untitled, 1998," also featuring his famous dogs.

## Demolition begins for Nets arena

### Hindy: I'm all in

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

Let the boycott really begin!

Opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project renewed their call for a boycott of Brooklyn Brewery beer after owner Steve Hindy officially declared himself in favor of the \$3.5-billion mega-development this week.

Hindy had toured the site of the project last week with members of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, who hoped to persuade him that Ratner's plan was out-of-scale with the surrounding community.

But after the fact-finding mission, the beermeister — who last week said he supported bringing the Ratner-owned New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn, yet was neutral on the larger project — had the opposite reaction.

"After meeting with the opposition and touring the site, we are more than ever convinced that the Atlantic Yards project is good for Brooklyn," Hindy told The Brooklyn Papers. "Not only will it bring a professional basketball team, it also will bring much-needed affordable housing, jobs and economic development to downtown Brooklyn."

Hindy said he felt the need to clarify his position after critics complained that no self-respecting Brooklynite could support bringing the Nets to the borough, yet not have a position on the rest of the Atlantic Yards project.

His brewmaster, Garrett Oliver, had taken just such a position last month in what he believed

See **HINDY** on page 4



Brooklyn Brewery brewmaster Garrett Oliver (left) and Steve Hindy in 2000. Oliver sent an email in which he said that he — unlike his boss Hindy — opposes Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project.

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's demolition of buildings within the Atlantic Yards footprint has begun — albeit one brick at a time.

On Wednesday, workers started dismantling the first of six Ratner-owned buildings in the area of his proposed arena for the New Jersey Nets.

The first to fall will be a forlorn former food supply building at the intersection of Pacific and Atlantic avenues long known by the name stenciled across its back and sides: Samuel Underberg.

The building is too old to go down by wrecking ball, according to demolition workers at the site, so it will be torn down brick by brick.

A moody work of 19th-century architecture immortalized in Jonathan Lethem's novel "Fortress of

Solitude," the Underberg Building stares out at Ratner's Atlantic Center and Atlantic Terminal malls — two very 20th-century projects that typify Ratner's prior work in Downtown Brooklyn.

Forever looming over Atlantic Avenue's traffic, the Underberg Building had a cult status among nostalgia buffs and preservationists who appreciated the contrast between its moody geometric outline and malls' bright flags.

On March 23, project opponents will return to Manhattan Supreme Court to appeal last month's ruling that paved the way for the demolition.

Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB) had challenged Ratner's right to take down the building before winning state approval for his project. DDDB argued that by razing the building, the developer was actually causing the very neighborhood blight that

See **ARENA** on page 4



The Underberg Building, which is being torn down by owner Bruce Ratner, has stood near the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues for a century.





# Cops grab Blood in man beating

The Brooklyn Papers

A member of the Bloods gang beat a man who refused to turn over \$1 on March 3, police said.

A 59-year-old approached his 50-year-old victim inside the Hoyt/Schermerhorn subway station around 7:30 pm. He asked for a buck, but the victim, a Queens man, said no, prompting the suspect to punch him in the face, giving him a swollen, bloody lip.

Police arrested the teen on robbery charges and collected

## POLICE BLOTTER

evidence of gang membership, including his red and black beads and literature about membership in the **Sundries snatched**

Buttuning up one's coat is good for the health. But it cost one Brooklyn woman dearly last week.

Police said someone took a shopping cart with more than

\$500 in various purchases from a 59-year-old woman in the seconds that it took for her to zip her coat and pull on her gloves outside Atlantic Terminal mall.

**Targets transit**

Cops nabbed a man posing as a bus driver to try to scam free subway rides.

Police said the 43-year-old

suspect entered NYC Transit's management offices on Livingston Street, near Jay Street, around 1:30 pm, dressed in a bus-driver's uniform and bearing a fake transit shield, identification card and office key.

Employees saw behind the disguised man, who later arrested the man.

**Shipping shop hit**

Burglars smashed the glass door at a Court Street store early on March 2, police said.

The vandals busted in, near

West Ninth Street, between 3:30 and 6 a.m. Inside, they rifled through the desk drawers and made a mess, but didn't take anything, police said.

**Youth robbed**

Good sense couldn't get him out of everything.

Police said a 17-year-old boy lost his cash and cell-phone to a thug who followed him through the Hoyt/Schermerhorn subway station and attacked him on the G train after school on March 4.

While the youth waited for a train, the thief approached and snatched his cellphone.

When the thug asked, "Are you ready to brawl for it?" the teenager responded, "No," and boarded a Smith/Ninth Street-bound G, police said. But that didn't stop the thief, who followed him onto the subway and asked for money.

When the thug refused, he pulled out a sharp object, forced the weapon on the teenager and insisted, "I know you have money."

The victim did, and turned over \$136 before the thief fled at Carroll Street.

**Health or wealth?**

A burglar seeking good health and vitality—or maybe just cash—came away empty-handed from a Court Street job on March 4.

Police were called to the vitamin store, near Remsen Street, at 2:20 am to find the front door smashed and the cash register was broken open.

The 34-year-old owner later said nothing was missing.

**Caddy clips cop**

A Cadillac driver nearly ran down a cop during a routine March 3 traffic stop and is now facing charges of assaulting an officer, police said.

Police had tried to pull over the 41-year-old driver near the corner of Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue, at 9:30 pm.

But instead of pulling over, the driver floored the gas pedal and tried to ram the officer, police said. The officer injured his hand as he swung at the vehicle's side window as the driver sped by.

Despite his distress, the cop caught enough of the license plate for police to track the car, and the driver was later arrested.

—Stanton

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## Police nab B'klyn Bridge mugger

The Brooklyn Papers

Police believe they've nabbed the man wanted in a series of late-winter robberies that plagued pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Officers with the 84th Precinct arrested the 21-year-old suspect after they caught him in the act on March 3.

Cops saw someone who resembled the bridge suspect and

followed him onto the footpath near Adams and Prospect streets, around 11:20 pm, where he robbed a 32-year-old woman crossing from Manhattan.

This was a really good arrest for us," a police source said, noting that cops had been tracking the crook for over a month, with extra patrols stationed near the fabled tourist attraction.

The latest victim said the

thief approached and said, "Be quiet. Do you have any money?" She turned over \$40, but it didn't satisfy the thug. When he asked, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

He took both and fled, but didn't get far. Police arrested him there and recovered both the cash and the popular digital music player.

Source said it's the same man wanted in at least three oth-

er attacks on victims crossing the span during February. A 27-year-old woman lost her iPod to a thief with the same description, during a Feb. 14 mugging.

And Feb. 7, the suspect struck twice — just moments apart, cops said. He stole \$10 and a Metrocard from a 23-year-old woman around 8:45 pm, then attacked a 38-year-old female jogger five minutes later, netting a total of \$3. —Stanton

## LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF TIMOTHY L. NICHOLSON, Esq., Attorney at Law, 100 West Street, New York, NY 10038, is hereby given that the following is a summary of the proceedings in the above captioned matter.

On March 11, 2006, the Court of the City of New York, County of Kings, in and for the Southern District of New York, in the above captioned matter, rendered its decision in favor of the Plaintiff, TIMOTHY L. NICHOLSON, Esq., and against the Defendant, JAMES J. BROWN, Esq.

The Court's decision is hereby published for the purpose of giving notice to all persons who may be interested in the outcome of the proceedings in the above captioned matter.

State University of New York, Notice to Bidders: The State University of New York, Statewide Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 04-100 (Total Contract Sum of \$500,000) for the construction of a new building to be located on the site of the former State University of New York, Statewide Medical Center, located at 100 West Street, New York, NY 10038.

The Proposals shall be received by the State University of New York, Statewide Medical Center, located at 100 West Street, New York, NY 10038, until 10:00 a.m. on March 13, 2006. The Proposals shall be opened by the State University of New York, Statewide Medical Center, located at 100 West Street, New York, NY 10038, on March 13, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

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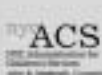
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18,040 children/8,913 teens are the exact numbers of New York City children in foster care on March 31, 2005.

## Ratner-ACORN deal is finalized

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner has finalized a long-standing promise that his \$3.5-billion arena and residential project would be linked to 600-1,000 below-market-rate condo units.

But the question is where. Under Ratner's agreement with the housing group ACORN, the units can be built anywhere in Brooklyn — and that has opponents screaming that the project would do nothing to solve the ghettoization of Brooklyn.

"We shouldn't be segregating homeowners by class," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights).

ACORN says that as long as the developer comes through with his promise to include 2,500 units of affordable rentals in the 8,300-unit Atlantic Yards site, the organization won't tell him where to put the low-cost condos.

"No one is saying that they won't be on-site," said ACORN spokesman Jonathan Rosen. "We have a preference, but in the end of the day we want to insure a mix of families living together in Brooklyn."

Advocates say that the moderately priced units should be built within the development so that lower-income families could get a stable foothold in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Located elsewhere, the affordable condos would still ease the borough's shortage of affordable housing, but not tackle the issue of segregation, whether by race or class.

"Homeownership is how to obtain wealth in New York," said James. "Affordable rentals are good, but leases expire and people are turned out. Rentals can't create stable, mixed neighborhoods."

## HINDY

Continued from page 1

was a private email exchange with a disgruntled Brooklyn lager lover.

But that was no private email exchange: An anti-project group, Fans for Fair Play, leaked the e-mail to The Papers, which broke the "boycott" story last month.

"I live in the area and personally oppose the project," Oliver, a resident of Cobble Hill, wrote in the email. He did say that he supported the arena, "if done right."

Hindy's delectable lagers, stouts, pilsners and ales had become the target of the boycott after he invited team officials and Borough President Markowitz to watch a Nets game and quaff his products at his Williamsburg brewery last month.

"We supported the boycott from the start, but more so now that he said he supports the project, despite our attempt to educate him about its problems," said Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy.

Scott Turner, whose Fans for Fair Play Web site began the "Think Before You Drink" campaign, echoed Goldstein, saying, "It's unfortunate that Steve Hindy supports a project that will make Brooklyn more generic."

Hindy's announcement comes just days after Fans for Fair Play released the "Oliver Transcript."

The brewmaster had strayed from the company's existing line in the exchange with angry beer drinker, Ian McLaughlin, who had emailed Oliver that he would join the boycott because of the company's "support of Bruce Ratner's stupid arena project."

Most brewmasters would've hit delete and then checked the temperature on the primary fermenter. But Oliver did what Brooklynites have always done: he gave his opinion. But talking out of turn got Oliver into hot water with his boss.

"He went too far and he has apologized to me about it profusely," Hindy said.

But he blamed McLaughlin for "hooking Garrett into" the e-mail exchange. "I told Fans for Fair Play that they were ridiculous to claim [Garrett] spoke for the brewery. I said, 'If you want to do that, I'll put you in touch with our warehouse manager, too,' Garrett was speaking for himself."

Not that he'll do much of that anymore, Hindy said, deflecting a request to interview Oliver.

Despite the Fans for Fair Play call for a boycott, Brooklyn Lager is still being sold at Freddy's Bar, which is to the anti-Atlantic Yard side what Rick's Place was to exiles in Casablanca.

## ARENA

Continued from page 1

required before the state can exercise its power to seize property via eminent domain. The developer had argued that the Underberg Building, and five others, was in danger of imminent collapse.

At intersection of Flatbush, Atlantic and Fifth avenues, opponents of the project reminded passing pedestrians that Atlantic Yards is not a done deal, demolition or no demolition.

"This is not the beginning of the project," said DDBB spokesman Daniel Goldstein. "Until they have approval, their project is nothing but a proposal."

But Ratner is seeking to create a perception that the project is moving forward, one building at a time. The developer, Forest City Ratner, says it now owns 87 percent of the property within the 22-acre spread of the entire project, including 91 percent of the condos, coops and owner-occupied units, 75 percent of the rental buildings and 63 percent of the commercial buildings. Goldstein is one of two condo unit owners who have not sold to Ratner.

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5:30pm Study Session with

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(Friday evening) service.

Chapel (enter 81st St.)

Saturdays at 9:00am.

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Sundays, 9:15 to 11:45am.

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Rabbi's Torah Study

Tuesdays at 6:00pm.

Challah Baking and Torah Academy

Thursdays at 6:00pm.

Hebrew Reading Class (beginners)

Thursdays at 6:30pm.

Saturday, March 11, following Shabbat Service  
The Meaning Beyond the Masks: How to make it enjoyable for children

Sunday, March 12, Noon to 2:00pm

Purim Carnival! Games, fun, prizes! Free admission

Monday, March 13, 6:30pm

Purim Service and Megillah Reading

Friday, March 17, 6:00pm

Family Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner

Sunday, March 19, Noon to 2:00pm

Sisterhood Spring Fling

Sunday, April 2, 11:00am to 3:00pm

Open House: "Have You Ever Wondered..."

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Saturdays, March 25 and April 1, 8:00pm

Sundays, March 26 and April 2, 5:00pm

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A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for March 15, at 10:00 AM. Interested parties shall RSVP to Michael Deveney at 718-330-2977 no later than noon of March 14, 2006 to confirm their attendance and/or receive traveling directions. Two photo IDs are required to attend this meeting.

This document can be obtained online under the collective number 9356 at www.panynj.info. It is currently anticipated that proposals shall be due no later than 2:00 PM on March 22, 2006. Send proposals to The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Purchasing Services Division, Procurement Department, One Madison Ave, 7th floor, New York, NY 10010.



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## Man thwarts 8th Av. knife-wielder

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

A 46-year-old man managed to fight off a robber armed with a knife on March 1.

Police said the thug sneaked up behind the victim around 11 pm, as the man walked along quiet Eighth Avenue, between First and Second streets. He pulled out the blade and insisted, "Give me your sh—," then tried to snatch the victim's wallet. But the victim struggled, shaking off the suspect, who ran away.

Police are searching for a Hispanic man, 5-foot-8, 150 pounds, with a goatee and dressed that night in a snorkel jacket.

**Matchless**  
A thief stole \$100 from a bedroom dresser in a Pacific Street apartment, police said. The 40-year-old tenant left home at 10 am on March 3. When she returned to the apartment, at Flatbush Avenue, early the following morning, her front window was pushed open and several

## POLICE BLOTTER

drawers had been ransacked.

Police said the thief took the cash, but left behind an odd clue: a matchstick sitting next to the kitchen sink.

**Bar burglarized**

Police said thugs busted into a Ninth Street pub before dawn on March 3, but left empty-handed.

The 44-year-old woman who owns the bar, at Seventh Avenue, said they closed at 1:30 am.

When she arrived at 4 am to do paperwork, she noticed that the back door had been forced open, an air conditioner in the office had been kicked in and papers had been scattered everywhere.

But the victim, whose pub was also burglarized in mid-February, said nothing was taken.

**Seeking firebug**

It probably could have been much worse.

Police arrived at a 14th

Street apartment just in time to find a small fire in a burglarized basement on March 1.

The 63-year-old super said someone pushed in the front door of the building, near Fourth Avenue, around 11 pm. The prowler sneaked into the basement, rummaged through an office there and fled out the back — but not before setting fire to a pile of papers by the basement door, police said.

**Plane gone**

Someone snatched a \$200 wood plane from a construction site on Seventh Street, police said.

Apparently, the tool was inside the first-floor renovation area of a home, near Fifth Avenue, at 10 pm on Feb. 27. But the homeowner, a 48-year-old woman living on the third floor, told cops that when workmen arrived at 7:30 am the next day, they found that the Makita tool had disappeared.

## Cops nab Bridge mugger

The Brooklyn Papers

Police believe they've nabbed the man wanted in a series of late-winter robberies that plagued pedestrians on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Officers with the 84th Precinct arrested the 21-year-old suspect after they caught him in the act on March 3. Cops saw someone who resembled the bridge suspect and followed him onto the footpath near Adams and Prospect streets, around 11:20

pm, where he robbed a 32-year-old woman crossing from Manhattan.

"This was a really good arrest for us," a police source said, noting that cops had been tracking the crook for over a month, with extra patrols stationed near the famed tourist attraction.

The latest victim said the thief approached and said, "Be quiet. Do you have any money?" She turned over \$40, but it didn't satisfy the thug. When he asked, "What else do you have?" she offered her iPod.

He took both and fled, but didn't get far. Police arrested him there and recovered both the cash and the popular digital music player.

Sources said it's the same man wanted in at least three other attacks on victims crossing the span during February. A 27-year-old woman lost her iPod to a thief with the same description, during a Feb. 14 mugging.

And on Feb. 7, the suspect struck twice — just moments apart, cops said. He stole \$10 and a Metocard from a 23-year-old woman around 8:45 pm, then attacked a 38-year-old female jogger five minutes later, netting a total of \$3.

— Stainton

## Crash on Fifth leaves one dead



Demolished car that was in the fatal crash at Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street in Park Slope last week.

The Brooklyn Papers

When a garbage truck collides with a 1984 Plymouth, the results can be deadly.

This unfortunate scenario proved true on March 3 in Park Slope, when a privately owned trash behemoth crossed the yellow line and crumpled a K-car on Fifth Avenue, killing the Plymouth's 66-year-old driver, police said.

Paramedics rushed the victim, Sunset Park resident Hartley Hebbard, to New York Methodist Hospital, where he died, leaving behind a wife of nearly 30 years.

Police arrested the driver of the garbage truck, 38-year-old Gregorio Ponce, of Queens, on an unrelated burglary warrant. The Brooklyn District Attorney's office said it may eventually charge him with a crime in the crash, after police finish an investigation, but as of Wednesday, Ponce remained in jail on the warrant, according to police.

Cops also hit Ponce's company, Canal Carting, for several violations found on the 1986 truck, including three unsafe tires, and a horn, warning lights and high-beams that were not functioning. A man who answered the telephone at the Red Hook-based carting company said the firm would not comment.

There was no indication Ponce had been drinking or using drugs, said Captain Philip Romanzi of the 78th Precinct, adding that it is standard to test for alcohol in such accidents. Neither Ponce, nor his attorney, could be reached.

The deadly crash occurred around 9:30 pm, as Hebbard was driving north on Fifth Avenue. As he approached a stoplight at Fifth Street, the green garbage truck — heading south — crossed the line into oncoming traffic, as if it was about to back up and pick up a load of trash, witnesses told police.

The massive truck then veered into Hebbard's Plymouth, spelling its end and its driver's demise.

— Stainton

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 11, 2006

# Robbins

Marine Park's industry insider on piracy, 'Shaggy Dog' & Murphy

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Papers

While Hollywood studios lament over diminished box-office receipts due to changing viewing patterns, Brooklyn filmmaker and TV producer Brian Robbins says he worries that technology, piracy and new DVD release strategies are going to translate into even fewer people watching movies on the big screen.

The Marine Park native and father of two says he understands that the high costs of tickets and snack-bar trips scare off some moviegoers, particularly ones with families, who think they can watch a flick more cheaply and conveniently if they wait a couple of months for it to come out on DVD — or buy a bootlegged copy on the street even sooner.

But Robbins also argues that there is no way to duplicate the experience of watching a comedy with an audience of strangers and sharing their laughter or viewing an action-adventure flick and enjoying the spectacular special effects on an enormous screen.

"I truly fear that the whole digital world that we're living in right now in our business, the movie business, could really become like the record business and kill it," "The Shaggy Dog" director and former "Head of the Class" hunk — remember Eric? — told reporters in Manhattan recently.

Asked if Robbins would want to buy a theater chain now, he confesses, "No," but adds: "You can't deny that seeing a movie — especially one like 'The Incredibles' — on the big screen, that experience is undeniable. I don't care how big your plasma screen is or how many speakers you have at home. It's not the same."

In discussing the industry-wide controversy over the proposed "day and date" practice of simultaneously releasing a movie in theaters and on DVD, the 42-year-old filmmaker admits he is "tom."

"Let's say, I went to see 'Madagascar' with my boys," Robbins said of last year's animated blockbuster, featuring the voices of Chris Rock and Ben Stiller.

"If I could go to the movie and buy the DVD on the way out, I would love it," he explained. "But I wouldn't go back. I probably would go back and see it again, because we had the DVD. But a movie like 'Madagascar,' we went to see three times in the movie theater and bought the DVD once already, and then it will probably get scratched, and I'll end up owning eight copies of it. So, I would buy it 'day and date,' but I'm going to buy it anyway when it comes out, but it would stop me from seeing it again and again. It wouldn't stop me from go-

ing to a movie the first time."

"The executive producer of 'Smallville,' 'One Tree Hill,' 'What I Like About You,' 'The Amanda Show,' 'The Nick Cannon Show' and 'Kenan and Kel' warns that the illegal recording and distribution of movies is the biggest problem the film industry faces today.

"It scares me," confided Robbins. "The technology really feels like we have to be really careful. It's all about piracy. It's not about how many DVDs will you sell versus how many tickets will you sell."

It's all about how people are going to steal it. Once they start stealing movies on a big level, once the compression gets really quick and easy, once it gets over the Internet and downloaded fast, the movie industry is in big trouble."

Pointing to the music industry and how it had to change to meet the listening and buying habits of its consumers, Robbins notes there is no comparison between the number of songs that get legally downloaded from the Internet now and the quantity of albums record companies used to sell.

## 'Dog' days

One film that benefits from being seen in a theater with lots of other laughing people is "The Shaggy Dog." Robbins' new family comedy about an overworked deputy district attorney (Tim Allen), who turns into a friendly, bearded colic.

It's not all bad news, though. From his new canine point of view, the DA sees how he has been neglecting his wife (Kristin Davis) and two teen-age children (Spencer Breslin and Park Slope's Zena Grey).

A man who started out making TV shows and movies for young people long before he had kids of his own, Robbins says his work takes on new meaning now that his family can watch and enjoy them.

"Now that I have two young boys and my little revolution around the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon and looking for a movie to see every single weekend, it's fun to be able to make a movie that your kids can own and the school community that you are involved with can own," said the Los Angeles resident.

The director of "Varsity Blues," "Hardball" and "The Perfect Score" says he sees "The Shaggy Dog" as an important project because Disney movies tend to last and even his grandchildren might some day enjoy it.



Teacher's pet: (Clockwise from bottom left) On the set of "Shaggy Dog" are director Brian Robbins with Park Slope actress Zena Grey and actor Mark Forbes. Robbins first earned fame as Eric in the TV series "Head of the Class," at left. At right: Tim Allen and Robert Downey Jr. in a scene from "Shaggy Dog."

"It's a classic title," Robbins said. "It's really an honor for me to be involved in something like this that could actually have a long, long life."

Robbins says he liked the challenge of layering the story with humor that would appeal to both kids and their parents. One suggestion he ruled out early on was having Allen's dog character really talking. Instead, the dog barks and only the audience hears what Allen is thinking and saying.

"I thought this movie had a classic idea like 'Liar, Liar,' or a 'Mrs. Doubtfire,'" Robbins said. "I wanted to make, as much as it's a kids' movie, I felt it's a family movie. It's a generational movie, and I feel like a talking-animal movie would become something else, would become a little more juvenile."

Next up for Robbins is directing Bushwick native Eddie Murphy in "Norbit," a live-action "Sheek-lik" fairy tale, which starts out in an orphanage where Murphy's character is a child who's heart-broken when the sweet girl he loves is adopted.

"And he grows up, and he's always getting picked on, but he sees the glass as half-full," Robbins revealed. "He's sort of like Forrest

Gump. And one day on the playground, this girl comes and rescues him and she's this big, mean girl. They become boyfriend and girlfriend, and they go to high school together and they end up getting married and she just grows into this mean, nasty, abusive woman to Norbit. And then Kate, the girl from the orphanage, comes back to town, and [Norbit] realizes that was the girl of his dreams and that's who he should have been with."

"The book is Eddie plays both parts: Norbit and [the evil wife]."

For Robbins, working with his fellow Brooklynite on a big movie like "Norbit" is a dream come true.

"I have been such a fan of Eddie's for so long," he said. "I was a kid in Brooklyn watching 'Saturday Night Live' before I was involved even in any of this, and I saw this guy who was amazing and I memorized every line from every sketch. So, the opportunity to do a script that I think is as good as 'Norbit' and then to direct Eddie is an opportunity I can't pass up."

Although he's concerned about the movie industry's future, Brian Robbins seems to be just as positive as Norbit about his upcoming projects.

"The Shaggy Dog" opens in Brooklyn March 10.

## BOOKS

# Fits to a tee

Govanus do-it-yourselfer Megan Nicolay has written a book illustrating 108 ways to be on the cutting edge of fashion — cheaply.

It only takes an old T-shirt — everyone has 'em from basketball tournaments and bar mitzvahs, assures Nicolay — and a pair of sharp scissors to get engrossed in her new manual, "Generation T: 108 Ways to Transform a T-Shirt."

The 26-year-old jersey girl has created easy-to-emulate patterns for anything from a scoop neck tee to a wedding dress made from seven white Ts (pictured).

Nicolay says that T-shirt fabric is so versatile and comfortable, that it was an obvious choice for a bridal gown.

"I do hope that someone takes me up on wearing it for their special day," says the author. "Think about how much money people would save; it would be the ultimate budget wedding! And she'll learn new techniques and will have created something she'll feel proud to wear."

Nicolay has attracted a following of women who enjoy customizing their old T-shirts into of-the-moment minis and tank tops.

"Now, the fashion trends are going towards this rough-edged, do-it-yourself look," she said, acknowledging that Jennifer Beal's character in "Flashdance" was the first to sport it. "It's one thing for somebody to compliment you on an outfit you put together, and entirely different when you can say, 'Thanks, I made it myself.' You're essentially designing your own label."

For those new to making clothing, Nicolay assures that one-third of the book's ideas are no-sew.

In addition to being an inexpensive way to update a wardrobe, hosting a Tee Party is a fun way to spend time with friends — that's considerably less expensive than a Tupperware or Party Lite event — says Nicolay.

"Just get a group of people together — drinking ice tea or Long Island Iced Teas to keep with the theme. Everyone's making something with their hands, and at the end of the day, they have a perfect party favor — a garment they can wear and they know they'll like," said Nicolay.

"It's in the spirit of doing things yourself and making things yourself and empowering yourself, and being able to do it as a community," she says. "It brings together like-minded individuals to create one-of-a-kind, wearable art."

Megan Nicolay will kick off her book tour with a demonstration from her book "Generation T: 108 Ways to Transform a T-Shirt" at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street) on March 15 at 7:30 pm. Bring a T-shirt or wear one of your own creations. For information, call (718) 832-9066.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## BOOKS

# Vaudeville now

Williamsburg resident Trav S.D., author of "No Applause, Just Throw Money: The Book that Made Vaudeville Famous," will share his considerable expertise at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch on March 11 at 4 pm.

The comedian and singer-songwriter, who has performed at DUMBO's Halcyon and Williamsburg's The Brick and Galapagos, will talk about the state of modern vaudeville in Brooklyn.

He'll be joined by an array of the borough's misfits, including Circus Amok's Jennifer Miller, the Bindlestiff Family Circus, hula hoop artist Miss Saturn and more.

In his book, Trav SD claims that vaudeville "is, including Circus Amok's Jennifer Miller, the Bindlestiff Family Circus, hula hoop artist Miss Saturn and more."

He'll be joined by an array of the borough's misfits, including Circus Amok's Jennifer Miller, the Bindlestiff Family Circus, hula hoop artist Miss Saturn and more.

theaters and nightclubs throughout the nation. For a growing subculture of young people at least, vaudeville is back."

After all, variety is the spice of life. Trav SD's event at the Central branch, located at Grand Army Plaza, is free. For information, visit the Web site [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org) or call (718) 832-1010.

"No Applause, Just Throw Money: The Book That Made Vaudeville Famous" (Faber and Faber, Inc., \$25) is available at, or can be ordered through, the Bookmark Shoppe by Carmela Soprano (Warner Books, \$29.95) is available at, or can be ordered through, Barnes & Noble in Brooklyn Heights (108 Court St. at State Street, (718) 246-4996) or Barnes & Noble in Park Slope (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-9066). — Lisa J. Curtis



As the first episode of the last season of "The Sopranos" nears, it seems fitting to kick off the event with a proper Italian festa. Just as the Academy Awards have spawned in-home Oscar parties, Brooklynites can prepare their intimate "Sopranos" soiree with "Entertaining With The Sopranos," a new book written by Carmela Soprano (along with Allen Rucker and cookbook author Michele Scicolone).

Whether you're a fan of Bobby Baccala (played by Bensonhurst native Steve Schirripa), Vito Spatatore (Ray Ridge's Joseph Giammusco), Carmela (Greenpoint native Edie Falco), or looking forward to Anthony Infante (Bay

Ridge's Lou Martini Jr.) making his debut, "The Sopranos" are always more fun when shared — over food — with friends and family.

That said, you'll want to refer to chapters 4 and 5: "Come to My Home: Open Houses and Family Reunions" and "Dinner for Twelve" for helpful tips including wine suggestions and cocktail recipes; how to look good in family photos; dealing with drunken guests; and of course, recipes.

Baccala offers indispensable tips in Chapter 4's "Out-of-Control Guests," recommending a three-prong plan of action in dealing with the party's "gavone," "Desigante. Deliberate. Isolate."

But perhaps you're feeling gloomy about the season's impending end and would find comfort in Chapter 10's "The Final Celebration" which has recipes for those important comfort foods: gnocchi; pasta and chickpeas; and broccoli rabe.

The final season of "The Sopranos" will come in with a bang on Sunday, March 12 at 9 pm on HBO.

"Entertaining With The Sopranos" as Compiled by Carmela Soprano (Warner Books, \$29.95) is available at, or can be ordered through, Barnes & Noble in Brooklyn Heights (108 Court St. at State Street, (718) 246-4996) or Barnes & Noble in Park Slope (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-9066). — Lisa J. Curtis

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# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

### This week: DUMBO/FULTON FERRY LANDING

#### Foragers Market

56 Adams St. at Front Street, (718) 801-8400,  
www.foragersmarket.com (AmEx, Disc, Visa, MC)  
Lunch entrees: \$6.95-\$12.

Foragers Market offers a selection of prepared vegetarian and meat dishes, with an emphasis on locally grown and artisanal ingredients. Deli manager Chad Parks says that the same quality ingredients offered for sale in the store (where priority organic veggies and free-range meats can be had) are used in concocting their sandwiches, such as chicken salad, the lunch platters, like Berkshire pork chop with sweet potatoes and organic asparagus, and a variety of vegetarian pasta dishes. The make-your-own salad bar offers two sizes: for \$4.99 you can fill the large plastic carter with ingredients like baby mesclun greens, feta cheese and citrus cucumbers, and for \$6.99, a gigantic box is "tasty enough to serve two," says GC Brooklyn's Rebecca Migdal. Top it with grilled chicken, shrimp or fish for a few more bucks. One or two soups are always available: the yellow squash soup is "deliciously creamy with a nutty flavor," according to Migdal.

New this month, Foragers offers pastries "from local Brooklyn bakeries like Baker's," says general manager Rory Treat, who adds that in the spring, a juice bar and outside seating will make an appearance. Foragers is open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Sundays, from 11 am to 8 pm.

#### Front Street Pizzeria

80 Front St. at Washington Street, (718) 875-3700 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Plain slice: \$2, 18-inch round plain slice: \$12.50.

Although the name says "pizzeria," Front Street has just about everything to satisfy your craving for salads and calories to burgers and hoovers to espresso and decadent desserts. On weekdays, Front Street dishes out breakfast starting at 6 am; platters are \$13.95 and include choices of pancakes, French toast, eggs, homefries, toast, bacon, ham, sausage and cheese, served with coffee or tea. Daily lunch specials range from chicken caesar salad to meatloaf. They even offer a salad pizza topped with lettuce, tomatoes, chicken slices, onions and oil and vinegar. The deli counter offers a full range of sandwiches, all the ice creams (16-ounce for \$1.50 and 32-ounce for \$2.50) are a bargain. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

#### Grimaldi's

19 Old Fulton St. at Front Street, (718) 858-4300 (Cash only) www.grimaldisbrooklyn.com. Large pizzas: \$14 and up.

The lengthy lines of owner Frank Cilio's award-winning pizza parlor are as talked about as the pies themselves. But if you don't mind waiting, the call-o-vans are among the best in the city. Lined with framed photos of the Rat Pack, this homage to Sinatra changed its name from Patsy's in 1996 to avoid confusion with another restaurant in East Harlem. Try a hand-tossed with fresh mozzarella, or add a few toppings, like sweet, roasted red peppers or sundried tomatoes. The pizza sauce is to die for. They'll also fill a calzone with anything on their topping menu, and they have antipasto with roasted peppers, mozzarella, pepperoni and green olives. Grimaldi's does decent appetizers, and you can't buy pizza by the slice. But you'll be lucky if you can stop at just one or two slices anyway. Open 11:30 am to 11 pm Monday through Thursday, Fridays from 11:30 am to midnight, Saturdays, from noon to midnight, and Sundays, from noon to 11 pm.

#### Miso

38 Main St. at Water Street, (718) 858-8388 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.95-\$15. ★

Miso's chef and co-owner, Zee, specializes in the cuisine of the Shikoku area in southern Japan, also known as the "Magical Islands." For starters, try a bowl of eggplant with ginger sauce, served with jasmine rice, or the traditional miso soup. Tender salad-pepper shrimp or the Shikoku tuna are recommended as main courses. According to GC Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry, "Shikoku tuna is worth the trip over." New menu items include sushi rolls with lobster, snow crab and king crab, and a creamy soup with snow crab and "edamame" (looked at that's popular with diners, according to manager Charles Chen.

Miso was among the first restaurants to win the Golden Apple award for food preparation safety from the NYC Department of Health, says Chen. Free delivery in Brooklyn. Open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday, dinner only on Sundays.

#### Pete's Downtown

2 Water St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 858-3510, www.petesdowntown.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$20.

Come early to ensure a table with the view. The backdrop of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Manhattan skyline off Fulton Ferry Landing visible both from the outdoor cafe and from inside the restaurant sets the stage for your Italian meal. Try the pork chops stuffed with prosciutto, mozzarella and basil, topped with a Marsala wine sauce, served with vegetables and a potato rosette, a fried potato basket filled with creamy mashed potatoes. There's also a warm goat cheese salad, with seasonal greens and walnuts vinaigrette, and Linguine Portofino with fresh salmon, plum tomatoes, red onions, arugula and extra-virgin olive oil. Not only is this a "landmark restaurant" due to its extraordinary location at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge, but four generations of the same family have been serving up great food here since 1891. Connoisseurs include free valet parking for

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn**  
Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

The grilled eggplant maki at Rice.

#### Rice

81 Washington St. at Front Street, (718) 222-9880, www.riceny.com (Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$9. Gabriele Blecher, a manager at Rice, described her restaurant's cuisine as "anything to do with rice." Can't argue with that. Boasting specialty rice infused with cilantro, parsley and spinach or, instead, steamed in coconut milk, the menu at this 4-year-old restaurant is largely rice-inspired but also features an eclectic mix of influences including Jamaican, Lebanese and Thai, not to mention great tandoori. Blecher said the chicken kebabs, served with Lebanese rice, steamed vegetables and pita, is one of the most popular entrees. But the Vietnamese lemongrass chicken salad has been turning heads, too. Seasoned fresh juices, such as watermelon or apple-lemongrass, are available, as is patio seating, in warmer weather. Owners David Selig and Peter Lawrence won a Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce award for the restaurant's intimate, dimly lit interior, which they designed themselves. Weather permitting, outside dining available as well on an adjacent deck. Open daily for lunch and dinner and for brunch on weekends, from 10 am to 4 pm.

#### River Cafe

1 Water St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 522-5200, www.rivercafe.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa)

Three-course menu: \$85; six-course tasting menu: \$102. ★

This 28-year-old fine dining institution features the most breathtaking river view of Manhattan, making it a favorite date destination. The Tavern on the Green-esque twinkling lights in the trees out front, and bouquets of fragrant flowers inside are nice touches, too. Executive chef Brad Steinhilber offers three-course or six-course tasting menus for dinner. Steinhilber pairs a Colorado rack of lamb with house-cured merguez sausage, caramelized "haricots verts" and lavender flower glaze, and black sea bass with poached artichokes, preserved lemon vinaigrette, artichoke twines and marinated oven-dried tomatoes.

For dessert, try the chocolate marquis Brooklyn Bridge, which features a handmade chocolate bridge standing tall in a terrine of toasted hazelnut served with Tahitian vanilla bean ice cream. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served on weekends from noon to 3 pm. Outdoor seating, weather permitting, and valet parking are available. An enclosed terrace room is open daily, after 5 pm, for reporters, editors and designers. Reservations are recommended. Jackets are required after 5 pm.

#### Toro

1 Toro St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 625-0300 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$30-\$63.

Executive chef Dudley Noto and sushi chef Richard Fong serve up Spanish and Japanese fusion food in this tapas and sushi lounge, which opened in 2004. Specialty include the "chorizo" (grilled skirt steak with chimichurri sauce and the double-cut pork chop, marinated in brine, and served with washed marinated potatoes. Manager Fong says the restaurant is "a place where you can (drink on a stick) for tapas, and for entrees, the grilled chicken marinated in garlic white wine sauce, with mashed potatoes and asparagus." Spaniards' ballroom available for private parties. There is outdoor seating on the patio, weather permitting. Open Wednesday through Friday for dinner only, and lunch and dinner on weekends. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Happy hour held half-off on cocktails and selected beer and wine, from 5 pm to 7 pm Wednesday through Friday, and ladies drink for half-price from 6 pm to 11 pm, Thursday through Saturday.

#### Water Street Restaurant

66 Water St. at Main Street, (718) 625-9352, www.waterstreetrestaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11-\$25.

This restaurant, built on the bottom two floors of a newly renovated 19th-century landmark building in DUMBO, has a duplex effect. The first floor of the restaurant, with brick walls and a wood bar area, overlooks the 20-foot-ceiling basement area with steel columns and old stone detailing.

Chef Reginald Taylor's specialty is the Creole paella, a combination of jumbo shrimp, blackened chicken, andouille sausage, mushrooms and fish flavored with Cajun spices, and served with rice. The size of the Cajun burger with andouille sausage, cheese, a crisp onion ring and house barbecue sauce — served with fries and a small salad — makes it worth \$12 price tag. Daily specials include a chicken filet done your way with a choice of sauces and toppings (one each) and two sides (soup, salad or fries) for 10 bucks, \$13 for an extra large filet. On Sundays, a jazz trio brunch is offered, with a choice of entree, soup or salad and a cocktail for \$14. For dessert, the cinnamon ice cream is a favorite, says owner Jeffrey Rodman. The 7000-square-foot restaurant also caters private and corporate parties. Don't miss Water Street's fifth anniversary bash on St. Paddy's Day, March 17: they'll be serving corned beef and cabbage with two draft pints all day for \$15, plus live music from Belfast — Cava — at night. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GC Brooklyn Lisa Curtis via email at [Curtis@brooklynpapers.com](mailto:Curtis@brooklynpapers.com).



# Easy to like

## Stan's Place imports Robert McManus from New Orleans — with some delicious results

By Tina Barry  
For The Brooklyn Papers

When Stan Williams opened Stan's Place in January 2005, he wanted to offer the Boerum Hill community a comfortable cafe with the feel of New Orleans. It's a city that's close to Williams' heart, and the customers enjoyed his down-by-the-Bayou po' boys, spicy gumbo and bananas Foster. But Williams longed to serve full meals, too, where his guests could really dig into Big Easy favorites.

In August, he closed for the month to renovate, transforming the cafe into a restaurant that brings the warmth of that city to the neighborhood.

Shortly before the transformation, Williams was talking with Robert McManus, hoping to lure the Louisiana chef to Brooklyn as a consultant. Then hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on New Orleans, and McManus, whose catering company was destroyed, made his way to Stan's Place.

"He came right from the airport, wrote up the menu, and got to work," says Williams of McManus's arrival. "He's been shaking things up ever since."

McManus worked with Peter Kaiser of the renowned Buckhead Diner in Atlanta before catering in New Orleans. He refers to Cajun and Creole cooking as "the original fusion cuisine, combining classic French cooking with Creole styling, and tastes heavily influenced by local ingredients."

McManus's dishes reflect the spirit of the city: big exuberant flavors, lots of spice and heat, and a long list of ingredients.

Walk into the cafe on a Saturday night and you'll find a lively party full of tender chicken and andouille sausage, does him proud. So does a fabulous wedge of slightly sweet cornbread with delicate crumb and a crusty edge, perfumed with bits of fresh rosemary.

Equally satisfying was a saffron-laced bouillabaisse, a seafood stew

The dining room has brick walls, a long bar, a huge, gill-edged mirror and candlelit tables. The feeling is brotherly and elegant. I can't think of another restaurant in the borough quite like it.

I can't think of another chef who serves crab cakes the way McManus does, either, and I've had hundreds of them. His "Creole jumbo lump crab cakes," shaped like little cylinders, are on the baroque side. They are spicy; are full of the winy tasting crab; have slivers of roasted red peppers and capers; and are served with ravigote (a tangy French sauce seasoned with capers, vinegar, shallots and herbs). They're complicated but exceptionally good.

One of the hallmarks of a good Louisiana chef is a great gumbo, and McManus's rich, multi-layered stew, full of tender chicken and andouille sausage, does him proud. So does a fabulous wedge of slightly sweet cornbread with delicate crumb and a crusty edge, perfumed with bits of fresh rosemary.

Desserts follow the more-the-better mode but with less finesse than the

Crepe expectations: At Stan's Place in Boerum Hill, a tower of "Crepe Gateaux" combines Swiss chard and leek fondue between layers of crepes, iced in a Brie creme Mornay sauce. (Above left) On a recent Saturday evening, the Mukuleles performed old-time string band music. (Inset) New Orleans chef Robert McManus created the Creole-style menu.

studded with moist sea bass and shrimp in a briny stock heady with sherry.

McManus fries up a superb chicken and serves it with well-matched sides. The crunchy, peppery crust on the breast meat looks like ebony-colored lace. (The bird was so good, I ate the entire large piece right down to the bones.) McManus serves it with creamy garlic mashed potatoes; slow-cooked collard

greens — as melow and tangy as any you'd dream of; and a decadent, smoky "today-ey" gravy (made of ham drippings, water and sometimes coffee).

The "Abita braised lamb," features one meaty shank, slow-cooked in beer from Louisiana's Abita microbrewery.

The ale acts as a tenderizing agent, softening the meat and imbuing it with yeasty tang. While a side of orzo in a Brie cream sauce was cloying, the pungent "gremolata" (chopped parsley, garlic and lemon zest) added color to the dish and lent a fresh, herbal note.

Order a side of macaroni and cheese, and you'll receive a serving large enough for an entree. The dish is on the creamy side, with a crisp top and filled with perfectly al dente pasta, but it's slightly bland.

Desserts follow the more-the-better mode but with less finesse than the

previous dishes. Bananas Foster, a dessert that originated in New Orleans, features sliced bananas sautéed with brown sugar until they form a thin crust; then they're splashed with rum. The fruit is usually served over vanilla ice cream. Here, the crusty-topped slices form a ring over a small disc of bread pudding, served with a whisky cream anglaise. The fruit and sauce were detectable, the pudding so-so.

A towering, red slice of velvet cake looked like Mardi Gras on a plate. A splash of creme fraiche and three maraschino cherries made a lucky — but fun — presentation.

Lovely to look at, the confection was slightly dry and topped with overly sweet, white icing.

The restaurant serves chicory-flecked coffee, a specialty of New Orleans' famous Cafe du Monde, which is a strong, rich brew with a pleasingly bitter edge.

Until the end of March — when Williams expects his liquor license — there's a BYOB policy without a corking fee.

I left Stan's Place with a tinge of sadness for what New Orleans once was and the long struggle it faces to rebuild. It's comforting though, to know that at Boerum Hill's Stan's Place, the spirit of the Big Easy lives on.

# Dishing it out

What's the best way to enjoy a meal?

A little plate of something delicious, followed by another, then another, until you're full.

That's the idea behind Park Slope eatery, Little Dishes, helmed by Colin Wright and Maria Friedlander (pictured). The husband and wife team — he's the chef, while she serves the front of the house — opened the place on Feb. 2, serving "American style meze" inspired by Friedlander who is of Turkish descent, says the restaurant's manager Rachel Portesi.

The couple revamped the former Cornbread Cafe space, coating the walls with Venetian-style plaster, laying down wood floors, and setting up comfortable, butcher-block tables.

Wright, formerly of Shoshani in the West Village and Laundry in East Hampton, starts off a meal with cream of cauliflower soup. You can try

a few raw oysters, then move on to "little dishes" like warm hen-of-the-woods salad; grilled-white baby octopus with lemon, and then hit the pork and beans, that says Portesi, "is better than any pork and beans ever."

Heater appetites will appreciate entree-sized plates, dubbed "big dishes" on the menu. Braised lamb shank served with black olive spetzle (fine, handmade dumplings) is one stick-to-your-ribs option.

There are eight wines by the glass on the international roundup of bottles. A garden awaits diners in the spring.

Little Dishes (437 Seventh Ave. between 14th and 15th streets in Park Slope) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Small dishes: \$5-\$14; entrees: \$15-\$18. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. For information, call (718) 369-3144.

— Tina Barry

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**SUNDAY - March 12**[illegible]**MONDAY - Mar 13**[illegible]

**TUESDAY - Mar 14**

[illegible]**WEDNESDAY - Mar 15**[illegible]**THURSDAY - Mar 16**[illegible]

**FRIDAY - March 17**

[illegible]

	TW	CV	1:00am	1:30am	2:00am	2:30am	3:00am	3:30am	400-900am
1	67	67	7:30 Latestart	8:00	Is On Hand	Start Time End Time Breakout Event	Is Special	Is Informer	Community G-Schedule
2	34	67							
3	35	68	New Agent	MC/PT	Match Dash	Not In Job		Team To Value	Community G-Schedule
4	56	69	Community G-Schedule		Community G-Schedule		Community G-Schedule		Community G-Schedule
5	57	70			Community G-Schedule		Community G-Schedule		Community G-Schedule

**SATURDAY - March 18**

[illegible]

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## OUR OPINION

## Yards pain isn't just nets

**P**RESS COVERAGE OF the initial demolition work at Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project this week tended to focus on the gleaming basketball arena that will rise from the rubble of the six buildings Ratner is bringing down this month.

But Atlantic Yards is not—and never has been—simply about bringing the Ratner-owned New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn.

It may surprise Ratner to learn that many skeptics—including this newspaper—actually support the notion of an NBA team playing in Downtown Brooklyn (although the perfect site was where Ratner chose to build his

failed Atlantic Center mall). The Frank Gehry-designed arena has always been the carrot, while Ratner has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in public relations campaigns to hide the stick: 17 skyscrapers containing a mini-city of 8,300 units of housing and millions of square feet of publicly unneeded office space sitting on a neighborhood-deadening superblock.

Ratner says the project's elimination of the Long Island Rail Road "cut" will heal an open wound that separates Fort Greene from Prospect Heights, but those towers and that superblock will actually do the opposite, permanently cutting the neighborhoods off from each other.

We remain enthusiastic about

having the Nets in Brooklyn, and our reporter, Lucky Ngumwajast, has been covering their games in anticipation.

And while the team's relocation here will cost millions in taxpayer subsidies, as pre-eminent Brooklyn boosters, we're not about to say it's wrong to put a high price on civic pride.

That said, we'd still like to see a real debate about the serious issues surrounding the "killing" of Atlantic Yards mega-project, a development in which the arena is a tiny part.

Such a debate is unlikely as long as the city's media and political leaders pretend that the multi-billion-dollar, city-changing Atlantic Yards project is about basketball. It is about so much more.

This debate, for example, should revisit the sweetheart deal Ratner received to obtain the development rights from the MTA, bidding \$150 million less than the agency's own appraisers said it was worth.

This debate is about whether the state should use its power of eminent domain to condemn privately owned buildings and transfer them to Ratner.

All of these issues have been covered extensively by this paper, but not by Manhattan-based media, which still treats Atlantic Yards like a basketball story.

## ALL DRAWN OUT

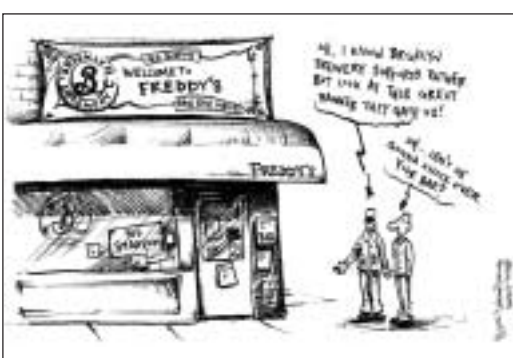


Photo: Reuters

## LETTERS

## “Sacred new!” Frenchman is anti-Semitic

To the editor:

Your article about the French protest figure Jose Bove being barred from the United States mentioned that he once drove his tractor through a McDonald's in France (“Border Patrol,” Feb. 18).

But there are other things about Bove that may be less well known in this country.

He has made common cause in France with Islamist groups as part of the anti-globalization crusade, making “anti-Zionism” a new acceptable form of anti-Semitism on the left. This distinguishes itself from more traditional French anti-Semitism, which had historically been a right-wing trait.

Bove, on his return to France from a visit to Ramallah, claimed that a series of attacks on synagogues in France had actually been orchestrated by the Israeli secret service, the Mossad.

To his credit, he did issue an apology one year later, after his release from a French prison. *Said D. Rami Park Slope*

## Don't blame Dick

To the editor:

I object to Gersh Kuntzman's column about Dick Cheney (“Brooklyn to Dick Cheney: Don't Shoot,” Feb. 25). The victim of the shooting should know to stay off the range when hunting is in progress. Can we get journalists in line?

*Janet Abdel Megged, Park Slope*

## Off the Mark

To the editor:

The news is true: Mark Lanes in Bay Ridge will lose “Game Over,” Feb. 25. Well, I would like to thank Mark Lanes for his many years of giving us great people, a place to socialize and great moments we might have never been able to.

With owners who cared for the community, Mark Lanes is, and was, what Bay Ridge is all about. On Saturday mornings, I couldn't wait to go there, and shoddily dragged on ever so slowly until I could get there to throw the ball and hear the crashing of the nets.

The 212 score I bowled there last month means more to me now than ever, because it is a lesson to seize the day while you can. *Tom Brice, Bay Ridge*

## A different standard

To the editor:

As a resident of what Forest City Ratner spokesman Joe DePascale believes, opponents of Atlantic Yards project are, in fact, interested in responsible development, jobs and housing (“Full Court Press,” Feb. 25). It is Forest City Ratner that has excluded all the long-established community groups from this project. FCR has manufactured community groups to mouth its propaganda. More people everyday, including long-time supporters like Borough President

Marty Markowitz, are questioning this development. And virtually all of the organizations now suing FCR and the state have to fear development of the Vanderbilt Yards, but cannot support the Atlantic Yards project as currently proposed.

Your paper has taken a very unfortunate turn, allowing side editorial quips into news stories and abandoning its previous professionalism. I hope we can see a return to previous standards.

*James Vogel, Prospect Heights*

## The beef on pork

To the editor:

How dare you call the money Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Sunset Park) secretary for a pollution and noise study of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway “pork.” Talk about bias!

I have lived with the noise, smog, and vibrations from the BQE for years. I've seen the neighborhood children with asthma and I've been awakened many a night by the noise. While much less-populated neighborhoods across America have tall barriers to keep out interstate noise, we, the hard-working people of Brooklyn, have to just put up with it.

I've spoken to my 70-year-old neighbor about what this neighborhood once was. It always brings a tear to his eye. If you want to know why Brooklynites don't trust developers or the peo-

ple behind the commercial development of the Brooklyn Bridge Park, look no further than the BQE.

The trench was supposed to be covered by a park to mitigate the noise and to keep the neighborhood from being divided. Promises, promises—now it's decades later and they're still silent.

*Paul Banks, Cobble Hill*

## In favor of war

To the editor:

I am writing in response to your recent coverage of an anti-war rally in Brooklyn (Feb. 25).

Protestor Caron Hendricks brought a sign that read, “U.S. soldiers are nothing but hired murderers,” I presume that Mr. Hendricks voted for John Kerry—does he consider Mr. Kerry a “hired murderer” for being a soldier in Vietnam?

The men and women who join the military are brave, courageous, and honorable for making sacrifices to ensure our freedom and our way of life. These qualities are what separate soldiers from people like Caron Hendricks.

Protestor Ruth Benn defended the anti-war rally: “The coffins represent the very thing the Bush Administration doesn't want us to see: the deaths that have occurred because of this war.”

One would be a fool not to realize that unfortunately people do die during wars. President Bush is not responsible for what ignorant people choose to see and not see.

President Bush never said that people were not going to die.

He has paid his tributes to the fallen soldiers and has expressed his condolences. We need to move forward and help the Iraqis establish a free country, which is why our soldiers sacrificed their lives.

Victor Davis Hanson, author of “Iraq's Future—And Ours,” stated, “Americans have forgotten that there can be much worse things than war. Stalin, Hitler, and Mao killed far more off the battlefield than those lost in World War I and II; bloodbaths in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda transpired in peacetime precisely because there were no troops around to thwart the mass murders.”

Ms. Benn and Mr. Hendricks should have an anti-Saddam rally. They could construct mass graves and drape them with Iraqi flags symbolizing the millions of innocent people killed by Saddam. *Faith Tuohy, Bay Ridge*

## Send us a letter

By mail: Letters Editor, Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

By fax: (718) 834-9278. E-mail: letters@brooklynpapers.com. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

## Where to Go...

Continued from page 7...

**ACTS** and “Dido and Aeneas,” \$20 to \$70. 730 pm. BAM Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**BOOK GROUP:** Must Casey reads from her book, “Brooklyn,” by Darcy Sterling reads from “Milk,” 8 pm. 143 Court St. (718) 975-3677. Free.

**PETE'S CANDY STORE:** New American Vinyl Trio performance, 10 pm. 709 Lorimer St. (718) 302-3770.

**NEXT WAVE:** “Heads Gable,” 7:30 pm. See Sat., March 18.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** “The Emperor Jones,” 8:25 p.m. See Sat., March 18.

**THURS., MARCH 16**

**SAFETY TALK:** Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce presents the director of the Last Education Program, NYC Department of Housing, Corrections, building owners and tenants are invited to learn about lead paint. 6:30 am to 10:30 am. 25 Elm Place, suite 200. (718) 875-1000. Free.

**BUSINESS TALK:** Church Avenue Merchants Bank Assoc. offers a talk on how to start a home-based day-care business. 7 pm. 1 pm. 884 Flatbush Ave. (718) 250-2422. Free.

**FOOD GUIDE:** Velving Nurse Health Care System gives a talk about diabetes and nutrition and the new food guide pyramid. 11 am. Jay Street Center, 2602 Court St. (718) 923-5300. Free.

**LECTURE:** Heights and Park Slope community council presents a speaker series for seniors. Today, Professor John Barrett discusses “That Man: An Insider's Portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt.” 2 pm to 3:30 pm. 140 Morgan St. (718) 986-8899.

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents “Symbols of Spring.” Appropriate for ages 4 and older. \$4 free for members, 3 pm to 4:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

**LITERARY SERIES:** Brooklyn Academy of Music and the National Book Awards Foundation host a series of talks and readings. Today, John Savelle and Dr. David B. Levy discuss “The Emperor Jones.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**FILM:** Brooklyn Family Library's Central branch presents “Tulip” 7 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**MEETING:** Community Board 15 presents School Children's Council. 7 pm to 9 pm. Working session. 145 Henry St. (718) 935-6247.

**BAKONEMATEK:** “Sons of the Hurricane Show,” “Innocent Blood,” 1992. 7:30 pm. Q & A with director, John Landis follows. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-FLM. www.flm.org.

**BARGEMUSE:** Classical music concert of Mozart, Dohnanyi and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0883.

**CEREMONY:** State Sen. Martin Goldenfeldt honors women who have performed community service. 7:30 pm. Bay Ridge Manor, 476 76th St. (718) 238-6044.

**DISCUSSION:** Park Slope Headshins presents “Heart to Heart,” a discussion in honor of women's health month. Nurse and physical therapist conduct talk. \$5. 7:45 pm. Madison Jewish Center, 2989 Northeast Ave. (718) 262-2954.

**BOOK GROUP:** Emily Barton reads from her book “Brooklyn,” 8 pm. 143 Court St. (718) 975-3677.

**OLD STONE HOUSE:** Nancy Kay Shapiro reads from her book

“What Love Means To You People.” 8 pm. JJ Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (718) 748-1195. Free.

**NEXT WAVE:** “Heads Gable,” 7:30 pm. See Sat., March 18.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** “The Emperor Jones,” 8:25 p.m. See Sat., March 18.

**FRI., MARCH 17**

**St. Patrick's Day**

**SENIOR CINEMA:** Brooklyn Academy of Music and Oxford Health presents “Bringing Up Baby.” 10 pm. 30 Free people over 60. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**BANCKEMATEK:** presents “Man in the Dunes: Discovering Hiroshi Teshigahara,” 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**BARGEMUSE:** Classical music concert of Mozart, Dohnanyi and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0883.

**ORIGINAL PLAYS:** Young playwrights present “The Last Days of Pompeii.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**BROOKLYN EYE:** presents a film “Heads Gable,” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**ORIGINAL PLAYS:** Young playwrights present “The Last Days of Pompeii.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**BARGEMUSE:** Classical music concert of Mozart, Dohnanyi and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0883.

**RECEPTION:** Testes Like Chicken Art Space presents group show “Milk.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** presents “The Last Days of Pompeii.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

**NEXT WAVE:** “Heads Gable,” 7:30 pm. See Sat., March 18.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** “The Emperor Jones,” 8:25 p.m. See Sat., March 18.

**SAT., MARCH 18**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**BROADWAYING:** Look what to look for on New to 130 pm. Williamsburg. (718) 287-4400. See 101.

**BAY RIDGE NORTH:** Brooklyn Center for a tour of a neighborhood filled with mansions, row houses, suburban old-victor and large apartment houses. 11 am to 12:30 pm. Bay Ridge Manor, 476 76th St. (718) 238-6044.

**URBAN RANGER WALK:** Learn about the history of Fort Greene Park. Ranger-led walk. 10 am to 11:30 am. Williamsburg. (718) 287-4400. See 101.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents “Rudy the Dog.” 11 am to 12:30 pm. Williamsburg. (718) 287-4400. See 101.

**MUSICAL:** Brooklyn Family Theater presents “The Emperor Jones.” 8:25 p.m. See Sat., March 18.

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Flushing Avenue, 212/439-1090. **WALKING TOUR:** Maurice Lorenz hosts his “Four Seasons” tour, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Crown Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at Marston Hill Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. (718) 769-6433.

**PERFORMANCE** **JAZZ:** Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium presents “Jazz the Women's Viewpoint,” 3 pm to 4 pm. 300 Bedford Street, 1360 Fulton St. (917) 616-8201.

**MUSIC:** Brooklyn Public Library's Flatbush branch presents “Music Off the Shelves: Mozart's Latest Works,” 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. 300 Bedford Street, 1360 Fulton St. (917) 616-8201.

**BAM DANCE:** Mark Morris Dance performs “Solos, Dances and Trio,” 8:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

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**BARGEMUSE:** Classical music concert of Mozart, Dohnanyi and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0883.

**RECEPTION:** Testes Like Chicken Art Space presents group show “Milk.” 7:30 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-8800.

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## BCAT Program Guide - What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

## No Says Art

## Isn't Easy?

By Leonard Jacobs

Give Melvin Isaac a brush and his fingers will quickly turn a blank page or canvas into art. But Isaac, who hosts *Artistic Talents* on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), isn't content merely to create art or to display it on his website, www.creativefanciamericanartist.com. He is deeply committed to a project called Uth Turn, a nonprofit effort involving churches, the criminal justice system, the Fund for Community Leadership Development and the New York Theological Seminary that works with at-risk youth ages 13-21. Isaac's contribution relates directly—and proudly, one should note—to the healing power of art.

On *Artistic Talents*, in essence, Isaac is teaching art to the youths of Uth Turn on camera. So while the program is about showing the viewer how to draw and paint, at its deepest level it is about showing everybody—whether they happen to be on camera or happen to be sitting at home, that all of us possess a certain measure of talent. The only mistake you can make is to attempt to tell Isaac that you can't draw, that you lack artistic talent. He'll have none of it because, each day, he is working with young people who are learning something about themselves.

“Uth Turn helps at-risk youth focus in a positive direction,” Isaac explains. “These are court-mandated, court-supervised kids and the kids with substance abuse problems, what have you—so what we do to provide services for them. We give them counseling, group sessions. And I use art as therapy so it relieves the anger and stress. They're missing a father figure, caring and love has broken down in the home. So we become the father figure. It's our mission to give back to the community, to try to find ways of helping kids.”

By putting them on camera, however, one supposes there are risks—what if a sulky teenager throws up his hands and declares, “I can't do this?” That, Isaac says, doesn't happen—and that may have something to do with his genial attitude and his confidence-building approach to art.

“With a troubled kid, the first thing I do is take their picture with a digital camera,” he says. “I tell them I do this because I see positive things in them. I say, ‘I want you to see what I see.’ They don't mind. Once I've done that, I download the picture and say, ‘You're going to show you how to draw yourself.’ I have tracing paper I put over the picture and I let them trace it out. Then they'll put it on regular paper, then drawing paper—I'm showing them, step-by-step, how to draw their own picture. It's all there—just lining it up, learning the techniques and the shading. They become so involved that, before you know it, I'm only with them an hour or so, we're finished, and they say, ‘Wait a minute—I want to stay. And I say, ‘Look what just happened. You see a picture that looks like you and you didn't get into trouble. You didn't cause any trouble.’”

Isaac began *Artistic Talents* in 2004, shortly after becoming a certified BCAT producer and also getting video editing with the AVID Xpress program under his belt. All along, his goal has been to share his experience, step-by-step, with some of his own formidable artistic talent—with the general public. “I have a passion to show people art, and my little nephew, who's into photography and cameras, said this would be ideal,” he recalls.

## Melvin Isaacs, producer of the weekly program Artistic Talents on BCAT.

After taking the classes, Isaac adds, “I went into the studio for a lot of practicing” and that led him to consider how often he might air the show, for which the concept was fast-evolving. “BCAT [advisors] suggested monthly was the way to go because with a weekly program, you do have to put four tapes in their hands every month.” He says he has been enormously gratified and encouraged by the feedback so far. “I did the program maybe three, four times the day of people caught it. And they came in and said, ‘

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2006 7:00PM ~ 9:00PM

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# The good & bad of Hepcat's job

**B**REAK OUT THE PROSE! Hepcat's got a full-time job with a computer start-up in Manhattan. And Smartmom could really use a drink, because she's still reeling from the changes this has brought to her household.

Not that she minds having him out of the house during the day. For the past three years — since his job at the Huge Computer Giant was outsourced to a software company in New Delhi — Hepcat's been working from home as a freelance photographer.

Luckily, Smartmom has an office in the Montauk Club. Otherwise they would have ended up not speaking to each other (except at their couple's therapy).

Well, Hepcat took up a lot of space both physically and psychologically when he set up his digital photography studio — complete with computers, printers, scanners, cameras, backdrops, strobe lights, and stacks of computer and photography magazines — in the living room.

Hepcat would get very agitated if anyone sat near the \$9,000 digital camera he left out on the green leather couch, or if Smartmom so much as touched one of the prints tempestuously drying on the Noguchi coffee table.

To say that there was some territorial strife would be a vast understatement. But Smartmom endured it because she supported Hepcat's professional dreams and she knew that he was making some gorgeous pictures. (Smartmom loves artistic men, especially those who cook — and Hepcat sure can cook.)

Clearly, having him around was an Excel spreadsheet of pluses and minuses. Back when he worked for the Huge Computer Giant, Hepcat was stuck in his Gaphattan cubicle around the clock. He missed his wife and kids, and he missed having a job with healthy boundaries.

Meanwhile, Smartmom had put her career on hold to do the

**KIDS** **Brooklyn Papers** **TEENS**  
**SCHOOL** **CAMPS**  
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Mommy Dance — and was not enjoying herself very much. Well, all that changed when Hepcat was outsourced. Now he was home 24/7 and finally able to take part in all aspects of the domestic life of the family, including Food Corp shops, drop-offs and pick-ups at PS 321, and frequent trips to Staples for the tri-fold presentation board needed for Teen Spirit's science projects.

For Smartmom and Hepcat, it wasn't that simple. Hepcat had spent three years establishing himself as a freelance photographer with a growing list of clients and a drop-dead portfolio. He'd also grown used to the after drop-off late at CommMutCo, sushi lunch specials at Yamato, and some of the other perks of working freelance in Park Slope (if you can afford it).

But the health benefits, 401-K, stock options and paid vacation time won out. Smartmom and Hepcat had to agree that they're not stupid. (Teen Spirit will be off to college in three years — if he graduates from high school, that is.) And living in nouveau Park Slope, Smartmom and Hepcat both need to make substantial amounts of money to afford even their modest lifestyle.

**N**OW THAT HEPCAT is working, Smartmom has her living room back. She can come home in the middle of the day and not worry about disturbing Hepcat. But she also misses calling him on her way home and hearing him say, "Well you taste what I made for dinner."

Smartmom knows that hav-

ing Hepcat around for the last three years was a gift to her family — even if he can never remember OSFO's teachers' names or which day Teen Spirit has his bass lessons. And it was a financial disaster. But who needs a savings account anyway? The benefits in terms of shared family time and the sense that both parents were actively involved in the daily life of their children was huge.

So when the job offer at the Start Up fell on Hepcat's head, he was a tad ambivalent at first. "What, is he crazy?" Diaper Diva yelled. "Of course he should accept the job. How else will you ever afford to buy a house in ... Sunset South Park?"

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## BROOKLYN BRIEFS

### Vote 'cheesy'

The Brooklyn Papers

To paraphrase the old Levy's rye bread ads, you don't have to be from Wisconsin to love Sen. Russ Feingold.

As evidence, the junior senator from the famous cheese state will be honored next week by Kolot Chayeyim, a feisty, liberal Park Slope synagogue that billed the event as part of Feingold's effort to become the first Jewish president.

"We're a synagogue, not a political organization, but we do know he's trying to become a national figure," said Andrew Stettner, president of the congregation, which will honor Feingold at its 13th anniversary celebration on March 18.

"It's a good opportunity for him to speak to smart, progressive Jews in Brooklyn," he added.

As if Russ Feingold — the only senator to vote against the Patriot Act in 2001 and the liberal half of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance partnership — needed help winning the smart, progressive Jewish vote in Brooklyn.

"We admire his stand for social justice and civil liberties, which few have done since 9-11," said Stettner. "He's against the grain, like we are."

How progressive is Kolot Chayeyim? It's so progressive that congregants don't even need to believe in God.

"At Kolot Chayeyim," the mission statement says, "doubt can be an act of faith."

The anniversary party, which will be held at the ornate Grand Prospect Hall in Park Slope, will also honor the usual suspects of progressive Jewry, such as Legal Aid Society attorney-in-chief Steve Banks, WNYC reporter/crusader-for-justice Andrea Bernstein and writer Tisha Arlin.

Nixon's nemesis, Brooklynite Liz Holtzman, and Village Voice writer Wayne Barrett will make special presentations.

For tickets or information, visit the synagogue's Web site at [www.kolotchayeyim.org](http://www.kolotchayeyim.org).

—Kuntzman



A woman carrying a baby crosses Vanderbilt Avenue at Dean Street in Prospect Heights.

### Traffic calming for Vanderbilt

The Brooklyn Papers

Stroller moms to the rescue!

Vanderbilt Avenue, which has become a four-lane mini-circusway for motorists seeking to bypass clogged Flatbush Avenue, will be losing two lanes under a Department of Transportation plan to calm Prospect Heights' main artery.

Sometime next month, DOT workers will paint new lines on the thoroughfare, from Sterling to Dean streets, essentially converting two opposite-flowing lanes into one left-turn lane.

"Everyone is very excited," said Danae Oratoski, a member of both the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council and the Prospect Heights Parents Association.

"It's too unsafe to cross because cars are speeding to make all the turns. And they make crazy left turns."

The numbers bear that out. From 1995 to 2001, 32 pedestrians were injured — one fatally — along Vanderbilt Avenue, according to Transportation Alternatives, a traffic watchdog group. More recent numbers are not available.

Oratoski said DOT will install a raised median rather than just painted lines if the community can raise the money for it — which prompted at least one Vanderbilt resident to complain on his blog that taxes are typically collected for such purposes.

Oratoski also said that it was actually a stroller dad, Mike Dowd, who started the Vanderbilt traffic calming crusade last year.

—Kuntzman

# Andrews tackles 'Frankenfoods' at Coop



State Sen. Carl Andrews looks over some organic ground turkey at the Park Slope Food Coop last Friday.

The Brooklyn Papers

Not so fast, Senator!

State Sen. Carl Andrews (D-Crown Heights) went into the belly of the beast — or is it the beast of the belly? — at the Park Slope Food Coop last week to get a briefing about the bête noir of Coop activists, genetically modified foods.

The senator impressed many people with his understanding of the "Frankenfoods" that lurk on your grocer's shelves and said he believes such foods should be suitably labeled.

But he risked losing all 13,000 of the famously liberal Coop's potential votes when he misunderstood one of the institution's most-frustrating tenets.

"I want to join up today," he said, playing to the hometown crowd. But his enthusiasm waned when he was told that all would-be members must first attend a two-hour "orientation" and sign up for their once-monthly work shifts — before they can start buying organic bok choy for 97 cents a pound.

"Orientation?" said Andrews, who is running to replace retiring Rep. Major Owens (D-Crown Heights). He also suggested that lobbying his fellow lawmakers could serve as his work shift (full disclosure: This reporter is also a member of the Coop — and if Andrews gets such a deal, this reporter is counting this article as this month's shift).

It was a minor slip-up on an otherwise uneventful campaign stop — although Andrews denied he had come to congressional rival Councilman David Yassky's district in search of votes.

"I'm not here as a candidate for Congress," he told The Brooklyn Papers. "I'm here because the [Coop's Safe Food] committee visited me twice in Albany to talk about labeling laws. Plus, I've always had an interest in food."

Andrews said he was most impressed by the Coop's commitment to the environment, its donations to area soup kitchens and its \$2.42 price on Naked Juice.

—Gersh Kuntzman

## '826NYC' fundraiser a hit

The Brooklyn Papers

There were many reasons for the literary-wannabes of Park Slope to donate at last week's fundraiser for 826NYC, a tutoring center for kids:

1. The group's board is a veritable Barnes & Noble calendar of luminaries, so the fundraiser offered the potential to associate with Eric Bogosian, Ben Karlin of "The Daily Show," Sarah Vowell, Dave Eg-

gers and Park Sloper Jonathan Safran Foer, author of the best book of the last 50 years, "Everything is Illuminated."

2. It was held in the "Superhero Vault," the rarely open secret backlot of the quirky Superhero Supply Store at 572 Fifth Ave.

3. It was billed as a "cocktail swirl," which sounded like a chance to get drunk, yet do so in utter sophistication.

Alas, there weren't any cocktails

— just wine, beer and mixed nuts — and Foer was nowhere to be found, but would-be donors were amply entertained by authors Mo Willems ("Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus") and Jon Scieszka ("The True Story of Three Little Pigs"), who are the Philip Roth and Norman Mailer of the under-5 set.

"Sorry about the [lack of] cocktails," said 826NYC Executive Director Scott Seckley.

"All the wine and beer was donated."

The event did raise \$20,000 for the group, which was celebrating the opening of its tutoring center at the Brooklyn Public Library's Williamsburg branch.

"It's a dream location for 826NYC's second home," said Vowell, the board president.

—Kuntzman



826NYC volunteers Mo Willems ("Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus") and Jon Scieszka ("The Stinky Cheese Man") address the crowd at a cocktail-less cocktail fundraiser in Park Slope.

## PRESS RELEASE OF THE WEEK

### You're invited to celebrate Steve's stroke

The Brooklyn Papers

Hey, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, happy stroke day!

Lawmaker Steve Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay) earned the coveted "Press Release of the Week" award when he invited Brooklynites to join him in marking the first anniversary of his stroke recovery at Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park.

"Cymbrowitz was rushed to the emergency room one year ago this week," the release said. "He was experiencing stroke symptoms and was quickly assessed by the neurologist stroke director. After confirming the presence of a blood clot in his brain, Cymbrowitz was treated in the advanced Interventional Neurology Suite at Maimonides. The specialist removed the blood clot — without surgery. All of the Assemblyman's symptoms disappeared and he made a complete recovery."

He returned to the hospital this Thursday to "join the Maimonides Stroke Center staff for a celebration of the one-year anniversary of his miraculous treatment."

The only thing missing from the press release was advice on what to get someone for the first anniversary of his stroke. Is that the paper anniversary? Gold? Platinum? Sient? Foley catheter?

—Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Leave it to a sheet metal worker to know when to fold.

Russ Bleil of Marine Park walked away with \$50,000 on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

This week rather than risk a wrong answer on the \$100,000 question: "In 1974, what product became the first to be scanned using the UPC bar code?"

The answer, of course, is a pack of Wrigley's gum.

By not answering, Bleil held onto the \$50,000 he had already won. Had he answered incorrectly, he would have gone home with \$25,000.

"I was thinking the right answer was a Hershey bar, so I'm so glad I didn't risk it all," Bleil said, who had answered earlier questions such as what the narrator in the folk song, "On Top of Old Smoky," laments losing (his true love) and what new test was added to the SAT in 2005 (writing).

He also knew that the U.S. Postal Service still uses mules to deliver mail in Arizona.

But he didn't know the illustrious history of the UPC bar code.

"I'm still happy," he said this week. "Fifty-thousand dollars is a good day."

—Chester Hawkins



### Sneaky graffiti

Enough already with the sneakyweasels.com graffiti! Seventh Avenue in Park Slope was awash in chalk promoting the Web site, and many residents fired off angry emails, said David Scott, its creator. "We wanted to be in your face, like Coca-Cola," Scott said. "In the end, folks, it's just chalk!" Sneakyweasels offers comedy videos — but Scott said he wasn't laughing at locals' threats to call the cops.

## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

### Michael Cairl

The Second Avenue Subway. A cross-harbor freight tunnel. High-speed trains from Midtown Manhattan to JFK. To the list of unrealized transit dreams you can now add a tunnel to replace the Gowanus Expressway. But one thing is different: This pie-in-the-sky transportation project is actually going to happen — or so says its chief cheerleader, Michael Cairl, chair of the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group. This week, the group finalized routes for the proposed \$13-to-\$18-billion tunnel for full environmental review. And Cairl says the state, which once resisted the notion, is now backing it. This week, Gersh Kuntzman checked in with the transit consultant.

**Q: Forgive my cynicism, but I find it very hard to believe that the Gowanus will someday be replaced with a \$13-to-\$18-billion tunnel.**

**A:** True, it's not a meager amount, but look at it in the context of the future economic development of the Gowanus corridor. Having a tunnel will aid retail expansion, make the waterfront accessible for parkland, and make more buildings to the west of the highway available for mixed-income housing.

**Q: Is this Brooklyn's Big Dig?**

**A:** We avoid that term because Boston's Big Dig was best known for cost overruns. But it has created a boom in Boston's North End that we think is comparable to what we would experience. What we're planning is similar to when the West Side Highway was torn down. That area was a blight. But it's not now. Besides, something has to be done because the viaduct will only last for another 15 years or so.

**Q: But the state could rebuild it for \$4 or \$5 billion. Isn't that better?**

**A:** Cheaper, yes, but not better. Our tunnel is

not just a road-building project, but an economic development project that involves public health, public safety, land use and economic benefits that more than offset the cost of the tunnel.

**Q: How did this come about?**

**A:** In the 1990s, several community organizations asked the state to consider a tunnel rather than rebuilding the viaduct. The state turned it down, so the coalition sued. In 2001, the lawsuit was settled, and the state agreed to consider a tunnel alternative. That's where we are now.

**Q: The good news is that you have personal credibility on these issues. You're working on the extension of the Newark subway system, right?**

**A:** And light-rail for Phoenix.

**Q: Oh, man, what a lousy city that is! Traffic, smog, sprawl and unrelenting heat! It actually may be Hell on earth.**

**A:** Did you have a question?

**Q: No, just making a statement of fact.**

## BANNED...

Continued from page 1

People are just exhausted by it." Of course, it could have been worse. Last fall, an Indian production company, Bollywood Hollywood, filmed a love story on Cranberry Street.

Over the course of several days of shooting, crew members climbed up a brownstone to string lights, squashing plants and shocking its owners, who came home to find a trail of big-watt bulbs strung over their terrace, Stanton said.

While no houseplants were harmed in last week's filming, area residents hope that the temporary ban in the Heights will give movie-makers a chance to scope out other scenic areas.

Other neighborhoods in Brooklyn offer the same structures that we have. Why don't they go there? asked one far-from-starstruck Heights resident.

But not everyone is quite so embittered.

Holy Trinity says the movie business pays nicely to rent space — and the church leaders' vow of poverty doesn't mean they don't devour celebrity sightings.

"The sextons got excited if there is a really big star around," said parish administrator Gregory Eaton. "Plus, it's a good source of income."

That's true for the church — and for the city. In 2005, the film industry created \$5

billion of economic activity, according to the film office.

"Short-term inconvenience translates to big-time tax revenue and jobs," said film office spokeswoman Julianne Cho.

And film crews are well known for paying hush money to local groups.

Martin Scorsese, for example, gave the Brooklyn Heights Association a nice "donation" to thank the group for its cooperation during the filming of his soon-to-be-released gang drama, "The Departed" (which, ironically, is set in Boston).

And Warner Bros. said it would make a similar contribution in the name of getting along with the natives.

"I don't know if the people around [here] consider themselves lucky," said "August Rush" spokeswoman Patti Hawn, "but I'm giving them a good deal."

No word yet on how much the passes would cost, but prices range from \$60 a year in San Francisco to \$15 annually in Washington.

Transportation experts say the price is worth it.

"People who are using the



Parking was banned on Pierrepont Place near Pierrepont Street for filming on March 1.

New York saw more film crews last year than it had in more than a decade, with 31,570 shooting days on location — a 35-percent increase over 2004.

Last year, Steven Spielberg chose Fort Greene as New York base for "Munich," and ended the film with an iconic shot of a computer re-generated World Trade Center taken from

the next 10 years," added Aaron Naparstek, the author of "Honku: The Zen Antidote to Road Rage" and a moderator at last week's well-attended Park Slope Civic Council traffic forum.

Since 2002, traffic crossing Brooklyn bridges has risen by about three percent annually, to more than 300,000 cars a day.

The gridlock has become a major battle line in the war against Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project. Already, 4,600 vehicles pass through the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues every hour during commuting times, according to DOT.

And if Atlantic Yards is built, 40,000 more vehicles will join the mix every day, according to a Community Consulting Services study.

## PARKING...

Continued from page 1

neighborhood as a parking lot will be discouraged from doing so," said Carolyn Konheim of Community Consulting Services, an independent transportation analysis firm.

"With streets as congested as they are now, our neighborhoods aren't going to survive

the next 10 years," added Aaron Naparstek, the author of "Honku: The Zen Antidote to Road Rage" and a moderator at last week's well-attended Park Slope Civic Council traffic forum.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 24th day of February, 2006, bearing the Index Number N03072006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 057, grants me rights to Assume the name of Olga Musykhina. My present name is Olga Musykhina. My present address is 1504 Park Place, Brooklyn, New York 11213. My place of birth is in Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is August 7, 1984.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 24th day of February, 2006, bearing the Index Number N03072006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 057, grants me rights to Assume the name of Olga Musykhina. My present name is Olga Musykhina. My present address is 1504 Park Place, Brooklyn, New York 11213. My place of birth is in Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is August 7, 1984.

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Richard A. Klass, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in general civil practice in Brooklyn Heights. He may be reached at (718) COURT-ST or [RichKlass@courtestates.com](mailto:RichKlass@courtestates.com) for any questions.

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